

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Supplemental Office Action mailed January 14, 2009. Claims 20-31 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claim 31 has been canceled and Claim 32 has been added, from which Claims 20-30 now depend. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 20-30 and 32 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

The below remarks address the rejections of the pending claims set forth in the Office Action of January 14, 2009. Applicants appreciate that a new search will be conducted as a result of the filed RCE.

The Rejection of Claims 20 and 24-31 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 20 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sucharczuk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6498732) in view of Mallory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4964081). Withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 31, from which Claims 20-30 depended, has been canceled. Claim 32 has been added and Claims 20-30 depend from Claim 32. Claim 32 recites a measuring device, comprising a device housing and a plug-in measuring-device module, the device housing comprising a front side, a rear side, and an interior, wherein the front side of the device housing comprises an integrated display device affixed thereon, and the interior of the device housing is accessible from openings in the rear side of the device housing sized and configured to accept one or more plug-in measuring-device modules and an aperture on the front side of the device housing sized and configured to pass a first electrical connection formed on the plug-in measuring-device module; wherein the plug-in measuring-device module is inserted into the device housing from the rear side and connected by a plug-and-socket panel to the integrated display device, the plug-in measuring-device module comprising a body, a front side comprising

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a first electrical connection projecting from the body, and a rear side comprising a second electrical connection, wherein the first electrical connection and the second electrical connection are data input/output connections; and wherein the first electrical connection on the plug-in measuring-device module projects through the aperture on the front side of the device housing to provide a measuring device with data input/output connections to the plug-in measuring-device module accessible from the front side of the device housing and the rear side of the device housing.

The Examiner relies on Sucharczuk et al. as disclosing an assembly comprising a front side of the device (element 30, Figures 1A-9A); a rear side of the device (element 31, Figures 1A-9A); and an interior of the device (element 41, Figures 1A-9A); wherein the front side of the device comprises an information output device (element 20, Figures 2A-2C) affixed thereon and a recess (elements 24 and 26 in Figures 2A-2C) providing access to the interior of the device. The Examiner also relies on the reference as teaching a plug-in measuring-device module (element 50, Figures 1A-9A) that is inserted from the rear of the device and connected via a plug-in socket panel (element 20, Figures 4A-4C) to the output device; wherein an electrical connection (elements 25 and 23 in Figures 4A-4C) on the plug-in measuring-device module projects through the aperture on the front side of the device (Figures 6A-7B) and is capable of transmitting input and output signals.

The Examiner notes that Sucharczuk et al. does not expressly disclose that the information output device comprises an integrated display device. The Examiner relies on Mallory et al. as teaching an assembly wherein an information output device comprises an integrated display device (element 30, Figures 1-6D). The Examiner believes that it would have been obvious for one of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included an

integrated display device, as taught by Mallory et al., in the assembly of Sucharczuk et al. for the purpose of displaying information to a user. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Sucharczuk et al. does not teach an integrated display device, as set forth in Claim 32. Additionally, Sucharczuk et al. does not teach an electrical connection capable of transmitting input and output signals affixed on the plug-in measuring-device module such that it projects through the aperture on the front side of the device housing.

The Examiner has cited elements 24 and 26 in Sucharczuk et al. as recesses. Applicants submit that elements 24 and 26 of the reference are electrical and optical connectors, respectively (Col. 6, lines 47-61). The connectors 24 and 26 are not apertures providing access to the interior of the device housing. The connectors 24 and 26 are plugged into the electrical or optical connections of the module, yet no element of the plug-in measuring-device module projects through an aperture on the front side of the device, as set forth in Claim 32. The Examiner relies on Mallory et al. as teaching an information output device that includes an integrated display device. However, Mallory et al. does not teach a measuring-device module having on it an electrical connection projecting through an aperture on the front side of the taught device.

It will be appreciated that the use of an electrical connection directly linked to the plug-in measuring device module and projecting through an aperture on a device housing provides a significant benefit when operating the device with the module. Particularly, a plug-in measuring-device module having an electrical connection capable of projecting through an aperture on the front side of the device housing allows a user to contact the module directly (e.g., with a power sensor) without intermediate connectors. Such intermediate connectors will affect performance and cannot be considered during calibration of the module because of their unknown characteristics. The Examiner appears to indicate that the intermediate connectors taught by Sucharczuk et al. (e.g., elements 23-26) are equivalent to the pass-through electrical

connection of the claimed invention. Such reasoning is inaccurate because the intermediate electrical connections taught by Sucharczuk et al. will impede the performance of the plug-in module and the use of the module in the device.

The combination of Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. does not teach, suggest, or otherwise make obvious every aspect of the invention as defined by Claim 32. Particularly, as described above, Sucharczuk et al. does not teach a plug-in measuring-device module having as part of the module itself an electrical connection that projects through an aperture on the front side of a device housing into which the module is plugged. The Examiner has identified elements 23 and 25 as electrical connections on the plug-in measuring-device module. The electrical connections 23 and 25 do pertain to the measuring-device module (Figure 1; Col. 6, line 36, through Col. 7, line 17). However, while the Examiner identifies elements 24 and 26 as recesses (i.e., apertures), the elements 24 and 26 are not recesses, as can be seen in Figures 2B and 4B. Particularly, the elements 24 and 26 pertain to the information output device 20 (Figure 1; Col. 6, line 36, through Col. 7, line 17). Further, the elements 24 and 26 may be plugged into electrical connections 23 and 25, as can be seen at Figures 6 and 7. The electrical connections 23 and 25 do not project through the information output device 20 (Figures 6 and 7). Mallory et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Sucharczuk et al. because Mallory et al. does not teach a plug-in measuring-device module, and particularly does not teach a plug-in measuring-device module having an electrical connection capable of projecting through an aperture on the front side of a device.

Because the Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. references fail to teach, suggest, or otherwise make obvious the claimed invention, applicants submit that Claim 32, and the claims depending therefrom, are not obvious in view of the references; and withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

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The Rejection of Claims 21-23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sucharczuk et al. in view of Mallory et al., and further in view of Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5808866). Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 21-23 depend from Claim 32 and recite embodiments of the invention.

The Examiner relies on the combination of Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. as discussed above. With regard to Claims 21-23, the Examiner notes that the combined references do not teach that for each measuring-device module accommodated, at least one guide component of the guidance on the measuring-device module is provided. The Examiner relies upon Porter as teaching such guide elements. Thus, the Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have included the guide features of Porter with the assembly of Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. to form the claimed invention.

Claim 32, from which Claims 21-23 depend, has been discussed above with regard to the Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. references. Applicants assert that the Porter reference does not remedy the cited deficiencies of the Sucharczuk et al. and Mallory et al. references with reference to Claim 32 and Claims 21-23 depending therefrom.

Thus, applicants believe that the combination of Sucharczuk et al., Mallory et al., and Porter do not teach, suggest, or make obvious the invention set forth in Claims 21-23; and withdrawal of this ground for rejection is respectfully requested.

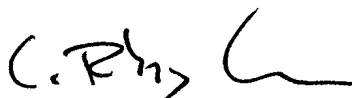
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 20-30 and 32 are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action allowing these claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at 206.695.1698 with any questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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